

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

[CWGC Canadian Agency](#)

66 Slater Street

Suite 1707

Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: [Dominique Boulais](#)

Report Date: 15 October 2015

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	X
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Bain, James Lawrence	i	Courcelette British Cemetery	link
8 th Infantry Battalion	i	Somme, France	i
Private #105626	i	Plot 6 Row A Grave 8	i
Date of Death: 26/09/1916	link	Date of Re-burial: 5/3/1919	i
Attestation Papers	link	Cemetery Schematic	link
Service Record	link	Graves Registration Report	7
Circumstance of Death	1	Concentration of Grave	8
CEF Canada Register	2	Headstone Register	
War Diary Extract(s)	3	Casualty Spreadsheet	
Area Map(s)	4	Trench Map Exhumation	
Trench Map(s)	5	Grave Stone Photograph	
Possible Candidates List	6	Grave Stone Inscription	
Excluded Candidates List		Other Exhumations	9
Other		Reporting and Review	10

Summary of Findings:

The Concentration of Graves – Burial Return for Courcelette British Cemetery lists a Canadian Soldier #105626 of the 83rd Battalion in Plot 6 Row A Grave 8. The Graves Registration Report Form altered that information and listed a soldier of the 3rd Infantry Battalion, which was then stroked out to show an Unknown British Soldier.

The review of the file shows the soldier #105626 was Private James Lawrence Bain. He was in the 8th Battalion when he was KIA on 26 September 1916 at Courcelette.

Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Plot 6 Row A Grave 8 are those of Private James Lawrence Bain #105626 of the 8th Infantry Battalion.

The findings are based on the following:

1. The Circumstance of Death file for Private Bain shows that he was killed in action on September 26, 1916 in action at Regina Trench near Courcelette, France (Attachment #1).
2. The CEF Grave Canada Register for Private Bain records that Private Bain was killed in action on September 26, 1916 and that his place of burial was west of Courcelette, 5 ¼ miles north east of Albert. His remains were not subsequently identified, although they were exhumed. As an unknown at that time, his name was recorded on the Vimy Memorial (Attachment #2).
3. The War Diary of the 8th Infantry Battalion clearly places the unit in the area west of Courcelette in an attack past Zollern Trench to Hessian Trench, which was the enemy's front line at that time. The battalion moved past that objective, with two Companies reaching as far as Regina Trench (Attachment #3).
4. Sketch #29 from the authoritative Nicholson text shows the location of the 8th Battalion (red oval) in operation in the sector to the west of Courcelette and north east of Albert (Attachment #4).
5. An extract of the trench map for the Courcelette area depicts the location of the 8th Battalion (green oval) relative to the operational sector 57d R28 (Attachment #5). It was in this sector that Private Bain was killed in action of Thiepval Ridge on September 26, 1916. This area is exactly 5 ¼ miles north east of Albert, as previously recorded on the CEF Grave Canada Register referenced above.
6. A review of the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission shows that there was only one (1) person with a service number containing the numerals 105626 that was killed in action, from any commonwealth country, at any time during the war. That set of numerals is an exact match to the service number of Private James Lawrence Bain, 8th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade, 1st Canadian Division (Attachment #6).
7. The Graves Registration Report Form for Plot 6 Row A of the Courcelette British Cemetery is clear that the records initially listed an Unknown Canadian in Grave 8 bearing the Service Number 105626. A transcription error carried over an incorrect battalion number, and there was no subsequent match to a member of the 3rd Infantry Battalion (Attachment #7).
8. The Concentration of Graves – Burial Return showed that the remains in Plot 6, Row A, Grave 8 were those of a Canadian of the 83rd Infantry Battalion, bearing an identity of #105626, found in Sector R28 as depicted on the Trench Maps for 57d (Attachment #8). We know this form to be in error where it states the 83rd

Battalion, as that unit did not serve in the Great War of 1914-1921. The 83rd Battalion was absorbed by the 12th Reserve Battalion. The [Service Record of Private Bain](#) shows that he was transferred directly from the 68th Battalion to the 8th Infantry Battalion. Had the records officer dropped the “3” instead of the “8” when transcribing the records, then the Graves Registration Report Form would have been correct and Private Bain would have been identified at that time.

9. The Concentration of Graves – Burial Return sheet for Private Bain #105626 also reports the exhumation and reburial of Privates Dennis Hurley #680, Charles Allen #105230 and Frank Wallis Smith #422397. All of these men served in the 8th Infantry Battalion and were exhumed from the same area as Private Bain (57d R28). The Circumstance of Death files for each of these three Privates show they were KIA in the same action, at the same time and in the same battle area as Private Bain.

Action Required:

The “Investigative Report” has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #10).

It is our conclusion that a review of all of the records clearly indicates that the remains buried in Plot 6 Row A Grave 8 are those of Private James Lawrence Bain #105626 of the 8th Canadian Infantry Battalion, killed in action near Courcelette, France on September 26, 1916.

ATTACHMENT #1

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
105625	Private	BAIN	James Lawrence
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
8th Battalion	26-9-16	649-B-11204	Methodist
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
"Killed in Action"			
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
Courselette (Regina Trench).			
NOTE:—Items 12, 13 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
12. COUNTRY	13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	14. GRAVE LOCATION	15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
		Grave _____ Plot _____ Row _____	
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	17. EXPOSURE NO.	18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF REPORT.			

34. REPORTED LOCATIONS OF GRAVE.

North of Courcolette, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles North East of Albert, France (Grave Registered).

35. REMARKS.

ATTACHMENT #2

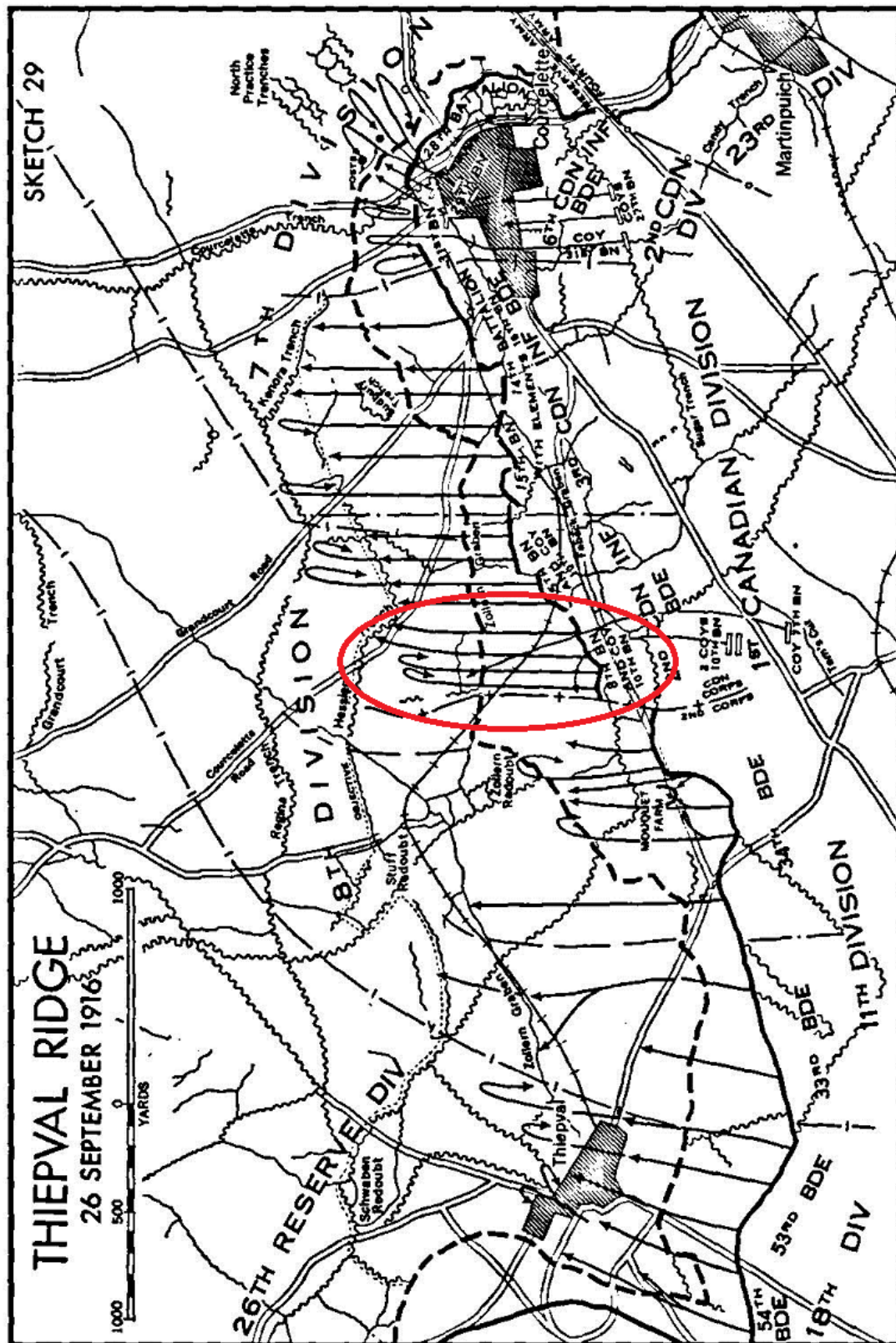
NUMBER <u>105626</u>		RANK <u>Pte.</u>		NAME <u>BAIN. J.L.</u>		1745	
UNIT <u>8th Batt.</u>		NEXT-OF-KIN:-					
FILE NO. R.L. <u>A-25-B-3054</u>							
						<i>Canada</i>	
DATE OF DEATH		CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH				CAS. SHEET NO.	
26-9-16.		Killed in Action.				A.598.	
DATE OF BURIAL		PLACE OF BURIAL		DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE			
X		Burial report by G.R.C. W. of Courcellette 5 1/4 miles N.E. of Albert		B.R./4454/DGR.E			
		<div style="text-align: center;"> VIMY MEMORIAL </div>					

ATTACHMENT #3

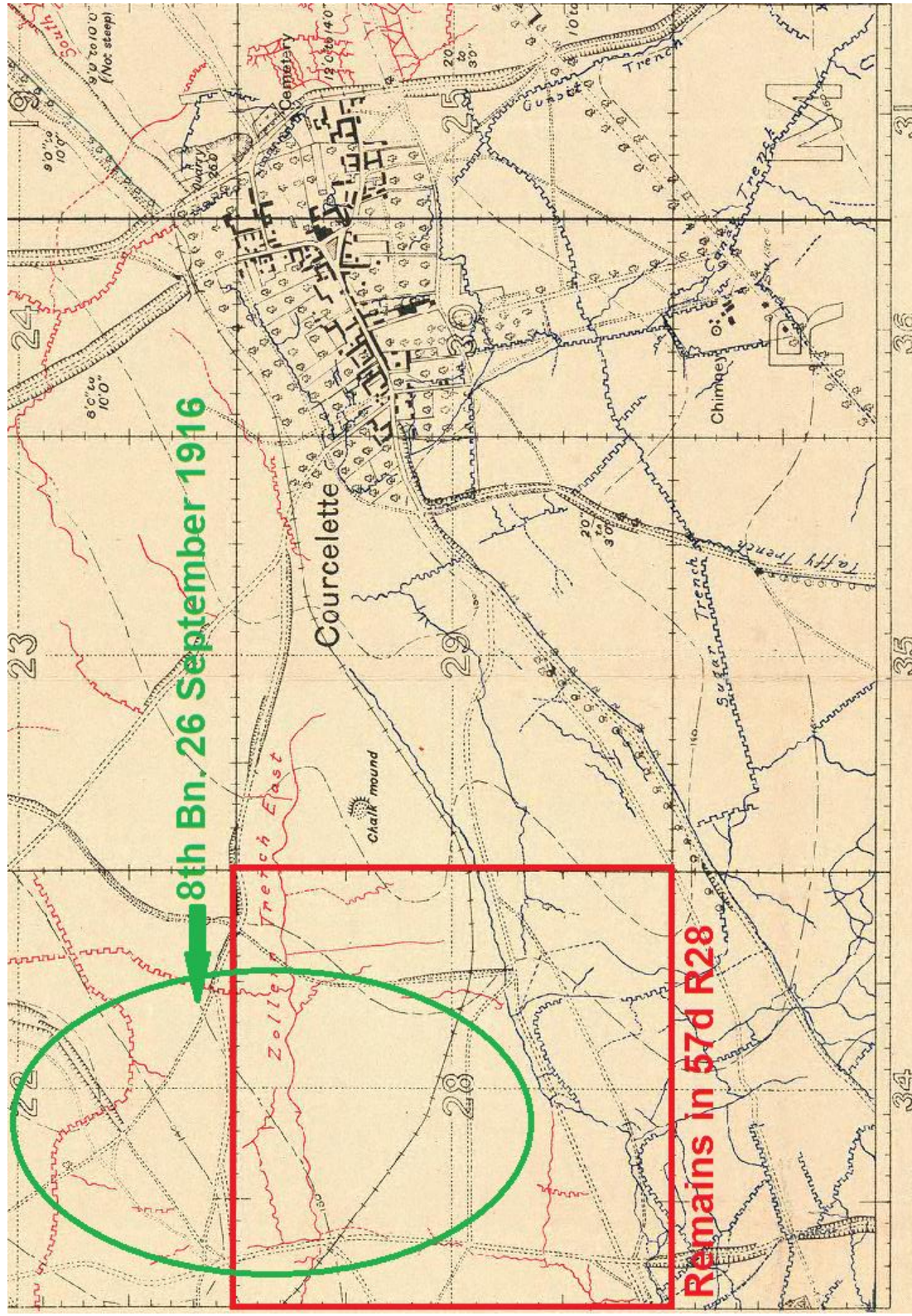
WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Erase heading not required.)				Army Form C. 2118.
Place 1916	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
September	26th	1.30 AM. 9 AM. 10.45 AM. 12.35 PM.	<p>All troops reported in their jumping off positions.</p> <p>G. O. C. 2nd Bde called and reviewed the situation with the C.O.</p> <p>Enemy 77 mm shell knocked out crew of a Holt Gun, no fatal wounds and gun undamaged.</p> <p>Our intense bombardment of enemy forward positions, gradually lengthening out over and past the ZOLLERN TRENCH, first three waves of the attack went forward under cover of our barrage and occupied the first objective, with the exception of "B" Coy on our exposed flank. Major Mahood at once called for Artillery Action on his left flank after which he was enabled to continue to his first objective.</p> <p>Owing to the intensity of the enemy's retaliation, both Artillery and machine guns, reports were infrequent & slow.</p> <p>In the further advance to the 2nd Objective "B" Coy was assisted by the 2 Platoons of the 10th Bn. under Rint. Birlbridge who were ordered to garrison the ZOLLERN TRENCH, (the enemy's front line.)</p> <p>Rint. Maund, Turner and O'Neill personally reported the lodgment in the HESSIAN TRENCH of themselves and 80 ORs, remnant of C and D Coys.</p> <p>No further reports from B. Coy. As yet no report at all from A. Coy. Wounded men from the two left Companies i.e. A and B. report that they reached the final objective but had to retire to the 2nd HESSIAN TRENCH - on account of the failure of the Battalion on their left, penetrating further than their first objective.</p>	15

WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Erase heading not required.)				Army Form C. 2118.
Place 1916	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sept.	26th	5 pm	<p>The situation on the left resulted in conflicting reports being sent into Battalion Headquarters, from subsequent observations it appeared that the successful in the taking of the ZOLLERN REDOUBT the attack of the 11th Division was held up in front of the STUFF REDOUBT, which was on a commanding position immediately adjoining our LEFT BOUNDARY. The fire from the M. G. in this Redoubt caused severe casualties to our B. and A. Coys who formed the left flank of our attack.</p> <p>Rint Maund reported personally to the C.O. that himself 2 officers and about 60 OR. of C and D Coys had reached and occupied the final objective, the REGINA TRENCH and had built a block to the west.</p> <p>Later an officer's patrol under Rint Revey of the 7th Battalion re-connaitred the position to the west of this block and found no signs of the enemy.</p> <p>Our enemy machine gun was captured by Rint Turner who immediately reversed it and used it against the enemy, also in the ZOLLERN TR. we captured two enemy M. G. which were in turn used against the enemy.</p> <p>A. Company of the 7th Battalion moved up to the HESSIAN TR. as reinforcements and were later ordered to establish posts diagonally from point 97 in HESSIAN to point 36 in ZOLLERN thus protecting the weak position of the left flank.</p> <p>Total number of unwounded prisoners captured amounted to 160 all ranks, most of whom very readily surrendered.</p> <p>Weather continues fine.</p>	16

Courcelette British Cemetery 6.A.8



ATTACHMENT #5



ATTACHMENT #6

Full Name <input type="text"/>	i Export search results in a spreadsheet-friendly format. Download results																												
Surname <input type="text"/>	1 record(s) match your search criteria																												
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Initials <input type="radio"/> Forename <input type="text"/>	<table><tr><th>Name</th><th>Rank</th><th>Service Number</th><th>Date of Death</th><th>Age</th><th>Regiment / Service</th><th>Service Country</th><th>Grave / Memorial Reference</th><th>Cemetery / Memorial Name</th><th>Docs.</th></tr><tr><td>BAIN, JAMES LAWRENCE</td><td>Private</td><td>105626</td><td>28/09/1918</td><td>20</td><td>Canadian Infantry</td><td>Canadian</td><td></td><td>VIMY MEMORIAL</td><td></td></tr></table>									Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.	BAIN, JAMES LAWRENCE	Private	105626	28/09/1918	20	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.																				
BAIN, JAMES LAWRENCE	Private	105626	28/09/1918	20	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL																					
Country (commemorated in) <input type="text"/>	Unit <input type="text"/>																												
Cemetery or memorial <input type="text"/>	Rank <input type="text"/>																												
War <input type="text"/>	Service Number <input type="text"/>																												
Date of death: (starting) <input type="text"/>	Regiment <input type="text"/>																												
Date of death: (ending) <input type="text"/>	Secondary Regiment <input type="text"/>																												
Served with <input type="checkbox"/> United Kingdom Forces <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Forces <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand Forces <input type="checkbox"/> Canadian Forces <input type="checkbox"/> Indian Forces <input type="checkbox"/> South African Forces <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Commonwealth Nationals	Honours and Awards <input type="text"/>																												
	Additional Information <input type="text"/>																												

ATTACHMENT #7

ELA

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.

Army Form W. 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

Third Area Serial No. W/ *8104*

REPORT No. 2

SCHEDULE No. *1015*

COMMUNITY *COURCELETTE?*

Certified *WEST.*
and correct.

PLACE OF BURIAL *COURCELETTE. B.C.*

All graves in this Plot are - CONCENTRATIONS.

Map Reference *57d.R.29.c.9.8.*

This cancels Reports Courcelette 2/1c to 2/4c.
" 2/1 to 2/10.
The following are buried here:— " 2/c to 2/134c.

3rd A.S. Nos. W/261 to W/395.

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
<i>Reburial</i>						
		PLOT 6		ROW "A"		
C.E.F.		UNKNOWN			All - Gr. 1	✓
C.E.F.		-do-			Grosses	2 ✓
A.I.F.		-do-			Erected.	3 ✓
B.E.F.		-do-				4 ✓
A.I.F.		-do-				5 ✓
B.E.F.		-do-				6 ✓
8th Can.	105230	ALLEN ✓	Pte. G.	26-9-16	xx/1065	7 ✓
3rd Can.	105626	UNKNOWN ✓	B. S.	xx/1065		8 ✓
C.E.F.	680	HURLEY ✓	Pte. D.			9 ✓
8th Can.	422397	SMITH ✓	Pte. F.W.			10 ✓
5th Can.	81731	RICHARDS ✓	Pte. J.F.	26/27-9-16	ccm/198/1082 G.C.M./L. 3/3/15577	11 ✓
C.E.F.		UNKNOWN				12 ✓
B.E.F.		UNKNOWN BRITISH				13 ✓
C.E.F.		UNKNOWN				14 ✓
1st C.M.R.	151733	HELM ✓	Pre. W.			15 ✓

873

ES 17/12/20

(6 31 5) W3160-P2723 100,000 9/19 HWV(PIC24) Forms W3372/3

ATTACHMENT #8

14. Serial No. 87		COURCELETTE 2/87E.		Canadian Burial Party	
		CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Re-burials).		5.3.1919.	
		Name of Cemetery of Re-burial		COURCELETTE BRITISH Location R.29.d.0.9.	
		Map Reference where body found.		MURIAL RETURN.	
Plot Row Grave	Map Reference where body found.	Was Cross on Grave?	Regimental particulars.	Means of Identification.	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
6. A. 1	R.28.	G.R.U.	C.G.41 Cdn. Soldier		Shoulder
6. A. 2	R.35.	None	Unknown Cdn. Soldier		Badge, No
6. A. 3	R.35	G.R.U.	B.Z.23 British Soldier A.I.F.	(S.N.6103)	"
6. A. 4	R.28	G.R.U.	C.D.8. Brit. Soldier		"
6. A. 5	R.28.	G.R.U.	C.F.89. A.I.F.		"
6. A. 6	R.28.	None	Unknown Brit. Soldier		"
6. A. 7	R.28.	G.R.U.	C.J.39.105230 Pte. C. Allen, 8/Cdn. Bn.	(S.N.7117)	"
6. A. 8	R.28.	G.R.U.	C.E.89.105626 83/Cdn. Bn.	(S.N.7006)	"
6. A. 9	R.28.	G.R.U.	C.G.20. 680 Pte. D. Hurley, 3/Coy. C.E.F.	(S.N.6746)	"
6. A. 10	R.28.	G.R.U.	O.G.64.422397 Pte. F.W. Smith, 8/Cdn. Bn.	(S.N.6923)	"
6. A. 11	R.28.	G.R.U.	O.G.10. 81731 Pte. Richard, 5/Cdn. Bn.	(S.N.6730)	"
6. A. 12	R.28.	G.R.U.	O.J.6. C.E.F.		"
6. A. 13	R.28	G.R.U.	C.J.26. B.E.F.		"
6. A. 14	R.28	G.R.U.	O.G.21. C.E.F.		"
6. A. 15	R.28.	G.R.U.	B.Z.18. 151733 Pte. W. Helm, 1/C.E.F.	(S.N.6097)	"

ATTACHMENT #9

680	Private	HURLEY	Dennis
2. UNIT OR SHIP	4. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
8th Battalion	26-9-16	649-H-713	Roman Catholic
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
<p>"Killed in Action"</p> <p>Was hit in the stomach by shrapnel and died immediately during an attack at Courcellette.</p>			
21. REMARKS.			
Exhumed from: 3/4 mile North of Pozieres, 4 1/2 miles North East of Albert.			

105230	Private	ALIEN	Charles
2. UNIT OR SHIP	4. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
8th Battalion	26-9-16	649-A-2398	Church of England
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
<p>"Killed in Action"</p> <p>Struck by a piece of enemy shell during an attack East of Courcellette and died shortly after.</p>			
21. REMARKS.			
<p>Shown on card as being exhumed from 57d.R.26.</p> <p>Shown on card as being re-buried in Courcellette British Cem: 57d.R.29.d.0.9.</p>			

FORM 87 1229-2M-1-10			43744
NUMBER 422397	RANK Pte.	NAME SMITH, F.W.	649-S-7479 44348
UNIT Man. Regt. (8th Batta.)	NEST-OF-KIN	Mrs. Wilhelmina Smith (wife)	
FILE NO. R.L.	25-S-2073	179 Cathedral Ave. Winnipeg, Man. Canada	
DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH	CAS. SHEET NO.	
26-9-16.	Previously reported "Missing believed Killed" now Killed in Action.	A.70.	
DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL	DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE	
X	3/4 mile N. of Pozieres 4 1/2 miles N.E. of Albert Burial Report by G.H.C.	B.R. 41100/1 S.G.R.E.	
Exhumation	4 1/4 miles N.E. of Albert Courcellette British Cemetery - 5 miles N.E. of Albert Plot 6. Row A. Gr. 10	RR 2022. 1230.3 Burial report by G.H.C. B.R./2009 2 H. 5456/25.	

ATTACHMENT #10

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

Procedure:	Guideline Criteria for Submission:
All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.	Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Ralph McLean	Private Researcher South Africa War Graves Project	ralph@southafricawargraves.org	Principal Investigator
Richard Laughton	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Report Author
Chris Wight	Private Researcher Canadian Expeditionary Force Study Group	guardsmancgg@hotmail.com	Project Reviewer